



URBAN DISTRICT OF TETTENHALL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For 1944

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
(On active service from September, 1939).

Temporary Medical Officer of Health:

A. P. FRY, M.C., M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector:

F. E. SMALE, C.R. SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Health Visitor:

M. G. WICKS, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.SAN.I.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1944.

Area : 2,503 acres.

Population : 6,850 (estimated mid-year 1944): 5,967 (census 1931).

Number of inhabited houses : 2,203.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £210.

Rateable Value : £50,398.

General Rate : 14/6.

Birth Rate : 19.7.

Death Rate : 9.78.

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 births : 14.8.

Total Deaths from Diarrhœa : Nil.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis : 2.

Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases : Nil.

Tuberculosis Death Rate : Pulmonary, 0.292.

„ „ „ Non-Pulmonary, 0.000.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Tettenhall Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1944. It is once again of an abridged nature but any records appertaining to the customary pre-war Tables which are, for the time being, excluded, are carefully preserved and held available for further information if necessary.

The vital statistics as a whole give grounds for satisfaction in regard to the level of health maintained by the community after five years of war.

The Birth Rate for the year again shows an increase on the previous year, being 19.7 against 19.2, and is higher than the rate for England and Wales, which is 17.6.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 14.8 is lower than the rate of the country as a whole, which is 46.

The Death Rate of 9.78 is lower than last year, when it was 11.2, and is lower than the rate for the country, which is 11.6.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis notified, two, compares favourably with pre-war years.

The district has remained free from any serious outbreak of infectious disease.

In respect of diphtheria only one case occurred and that was in a child who was temporarily resident outside the area at the time.

The response of parents to give their children the protection afforded by immunisation is encouraging, and I am indebted to Dr. Simpson Smith, one of the Assistant County School Medical Officers, for the valuable assistance he has given in this campaign.

The physical and nutritional condition of the children, infants, pre-school and school, has been maintained, and my personal impression is that it is better than in pre-war days.

The housing situation is now of priority importance, but there can be no substantial improvement till the building trade is reinforced in respect of skilled tradesmen and labour.

My best thanks are rendered to the Medical Practitioners in the district for their co-operation. To your Clerk, Mr. Hinckes, and your Surveyor, Mr. Mason, I also acknowledge my indebtedness. The enthusiasm and thoroughness with which Mr. Smale,

your Sanitary Inspector, carries out his own duties in addition to giving invaluable assistance to myself also merit my commendation and thanks.

In conclusion I wish to convey to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee my appreciation of their unfailing interest in the health of the community.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. P. FRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1945.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	125	56	69	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population, 19.7.
	Illegitimate	10	6	4	
Still Births	Legitimate	6	1	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 43.
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths		67			Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population, 9.78.

Deaths from puerperal causes: Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births:

Legitimate	...	16.0
Illegitimate	...	0.0

Deaths from Cancer: 12.

„ „ Measles (all ages): Nil.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages): Nil.

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age): Nil.

TABLE I.
BIRTH RATES.

Year	TETTENHALL.		England and Wales. Birth Rate.
	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.	
1940	112	16.2	14.6
1941	112	15.3	14.2
1942	118	17.0	15.8
1943	131	19.2	16.5
1944	135	19.7	17.6

TABLE II.
DEATH RATES.

Year	TETTENHALL.		England and Wales. Death Rate.
	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.	
1940	87	12.6	14.3
1941	89	12.2	12.9
1942	71	10.2	11.6
1943	76	11.2	12.1
1944	67	9.7	11.6

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1944.

Causes of Death.							M.	F.	
	All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	26	41	
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers				...	...	—	—	
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
4	Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	—	—	
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
7	Encephalitis Lethargica		...	...	...	...	—	—	
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever		...	...	...	...	—	—	
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system				...	...	2	—	
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases				...	...	—	—	
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis							—	—
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease			...	...	...	6	6	
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.			...	...	...	5	7	
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	18	
17	Aneurism	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
18	Other Circulatory Diseases			...	...	...	—	—	
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
20	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	
21	Other Respiratory Diseases			...	...	...	—	1	
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
23	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)			...	...	...	—	—	
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
25	Cirrhosis of Liver		...	...	...	...	—	1	
26	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.			...	...	...	—	—	
27	Other Digestive Diseases			...	...	...	—	—	
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis			...	...	...	—	1	
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
30	Other Puerperal causes			...	...	...	—	—	
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.				...	...	1	—	
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
34	Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	
35	Other defined diseases			...	...	...	1	—	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—Total					...	...	1	1	
					Legitimate	...	1	1	
					Illegitimate	...	—	—	
Live Births—Total		...	...	...	...	...	62	73	
		Legitimate	...	...	...	...	56	69	
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	6	4	

TABLE III.—Continued.

Causes of Death.						M.	F.
Still Births—Total	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Population	...	...	...	...	...		6,850
General Register Office, Southport.							

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year there were 53 notifications of infectious diseases, a considerable decrease compared with 1943, when the figure was 155.

Diphtheria.—There was only 1 case of Diphtheria. This occurred in a Tettenhall child temporarily resident in Newcastle-on-Tyne where it was hospitalised and died.

Scarlet Fever.—Whilst 8 cases were notified only 2 were removed to hospital, and 1 of these latter was an unaccompanied evacuated child.

Erysipelas.—One case notified but nursed at home.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—Two new cases were notified, the same as for last year, with 2 deaths, an increase of 1 on the figure for 1943.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—No new cases were reported and there were no deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No cases notified.

Pneumonia.—There were 11 cases and 2 deaths, a slight decrease on last year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—No cases notified as against 2 notifications and 2 deaths in 1943.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.—Again no cases notified.

Measles and Whooping Cough.—The number of notifications of measles shows a considerable decrease, there being in 1944 5 cases of measles as compared with 104 in 1943, whilst the figures for whooping cough remain about the same, 24 in 1944 and 27 in 1943.

One of the cases of measles and 4 of the cases of whooping cough were evacuees, who because of the difficulty of nursing them in their billets were removed to hospital. The cost of maintenance for these patients is recoverable from the Ministry of Health.

Dysentery.—Four cases were notified, 3 being children in the same family. The other case was a woman who was removed to hospital.

Cancer.—There were again 11 deaths from this disease, the same as for 1943.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria.—At the end of the year it was estimated that 55% of children under school age and 94% of school children had been immunised. The corresponding figures at the end of 1943 were 57% and 89%.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The use of the Hut at the rear of the Council Offices has continued throughout the year as a Welfare Centre, School and Ante-Natal Clinic, and conditions have been satisfactory.

The County Authority is responsible for this service.

WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. B. L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst. W.E., Water Engineer, Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking, for the following report, which deals with special points in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 49/45.

“Tettenhall Urban District is within the statutory limits of supply of the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking. The sources of supply are deep boreholes and wells in the Bunter beds of the New Red Sandstone at Tettenhall, Cosford, and Dimmingsdale, and the River Worfe at Cosford.

The borehole supplies are of great natural purity, but the river supply is treated in new purification works (set to work in 1941) where it is subjected to coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration. All the supplies are chlorinated.

All the supplies are of moderate hardness and have no plumbo-solvent action.

During 1944 a full supply of pure water was maintained.”

There are only two wells in the area from which domestic water supply is obtained, the remainder of the houses being supplied with piped supplies. Although there are no houses with a common standpipe for supply, there are a number of houses where the supply is to a wash-house detached from the house, but even this is only the case in a small percentage of the total number of houses in the district.

CESSPOOLS, WINDMILL LANE.

In spite of the Council's efforts at more frequent emptying of the cesspools, a serious nuisance from the overflowing still exists. At the end of the year the County Medical Officer of Health, as well as the Local Authority, were in communication with Ministry of Health in an effort to obtain sanction for the sewerage of the area. There appeared every prospect that the Ministry would at last give its sanction.

SEWERAGE.

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. J. W. Mason, A.M.Inst., M. & Cy.E., for the following report:—

Blackbrook Sewerage Farm.

“The farm has been kept in good condition during the past year and improvements have been effected by the removal of certain hedges and the old withies.

Samples of water have been submitted regularly to the County Analyst for analysis and report, and bearing in mind the conditions, results generally may be considered satisfactory."

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The details of inspections and visits to dwelling houses and other premises will be found in succeeding paragraphs of the report.

Although the essential sanitary services were maintained during the year it was only with some difficulty, as the Sanitary Inspector is also Chief Billeting Officer and some time was taken up during the year in billeting duties connected with the reception of another party of evacuees in July. Details of this work are given below.

Shops.

28 inspections under the Shops Acts were recorded, but no contraventions of the statutes were found.

Closing hours were again altered during the winter to meet "black-out" conditions.

Public Cleansing.

The system of the collection of house refuse alternating with the collection of salvage has again worked most satisfactorily in spite of labour conditions.

Rodent Control.

Since the passing of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, the County Council had been the responsible Authority for enforcing the provisions of that Act and complaints in the area were passed to the County Authority.

In July, 1943, the Ministry of Food under the Infestation Order, 1943, instructed Local Authorities to make a survey of the district to ascertain the degree of infestation and to submit a report. The survey showed that—

- (1) there were no infestations of the reservoir type;
- (2) there were no infestations of the major primary type, and
- (3) there were only 4 infestations of the minor secondary type.

It was not until January, 1944, that the County Council delegated their powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and in March the Council appointed a part-time Rodent Operator.

By the end of the year the Rodent Operator had carried out, at the occupiers' cost, 8 disinfestations, and an estimated kill of 139 rats and 128 mice was recorded.

In April the Council were directed to disinfest their sewers, and during a period of 5 weeks 350 manholes were baited but

not the slightest sign of infestation was found. The direction to carry out periodic treatments of the sewers was withdrawn in October, 1944.

A total of 153 visits and inspections were made in connection with rodent control by your Sanitary Inspector who had been appointed Rodent Officer. Advice on the best methods to remedy very small infestations was given in 10 instances.

Housing.

As during last year it was found most difficult to get even urgent repairs carried out after the service of notice, due to the acute lack of labour. The majority of houses have not been maintained during the war, with the result that a vast amount of repair and reconditioning work will have to be undertaken when times are more normal. This work will have to compete with new house building so that it may be some time after the end of the war before any real attack on repair work can be made.

The shortage of houses for all purposes still remains acute, but at the end of the year the following progress had been made:—

- (a) First year Post War programme: The site of 12-13 acres at Long Lake, Compton, had been purchased and site plans approved by the Ministry of Health. This site will provide for 126 houses made up of 102 three-bedroomed houses, 12 four-bedroomed houses and 12 aged persons bungalows.
- (b) Second year Post War programme: A site of 23 acres situated between Tettenhall Wood and Tettenhall had been inspected by the various Ministries concerned and had received their approval. This site will ultimately provide for about 250 houses, whilst a portion of the site has also been earmarked for a school for the Staffordshire Education Authority.

Overcrowding.

The position as reported last year has not improved and the only hope of some alleviation of the problem lies in the speedy building of new houses.

Evacuation.

During the summer the Sanitary Inspector as Chief Billeting Officer, with the assistance of 12 additional Billeting Officers, was responsible for the reception and billeting of 227 mothers and children from the Metropolitan Evacuation Area and 230 unaccompanied children from the Boroughs of Richmond, Surrey and Ealing.

Since the beginning of the War, well over a thousand evacuated persons have been accommodated in the area, whilst many war workers and Civil Servants have also found accommodation.

The evacuees were billeted with difficulty. The reception of unaccompanied children was new to the Local Authority and before long we were thankful that the County Council had already in existence two hostels for difficult children, two sick bays and two "buffer" hostels. These hostels helped us out of very many difficulties and problems.

A Welfare Officer was appointed to deal with the personal problems of the evacuees. This Officer and members of the W.V.S., who commenced and ran a club for them, did a great deal to keep the evacuees as happy as could be expected after their experiences in the evacuation area.

At the end of the year only 25 mothers and children and 49 unaccompanied children of the official party remained billeted.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The following summary shows the number of registered purveyors and producers of milk on the 31st December, 1944:—

Number of Registered Producers	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ „ Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ „ Retail Purveyors of—					
			(a) loose and/or bottled milk		21
			(b) bottled milk from shops		
			or rounds	...	13
Number of Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ Registered Dairy Premises	...	...	...	...	15
„ „ Inspections of Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	52
„ „ Inspections of Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	61

Generally the cowsheds continue to be maintained in a clean condition under most difficult labour conditions, although four warning letters were sent to farmers with regard to accumulations of manure and failure to cleanse walls and floors of cowsheds.

One complaint regarding the dirty condition of bottles when delivered to the consumer was investigated and was probably due to carelessness at the dairy. As this was an isolated case a warning letter was deemed sufficient action.

The surface of the fold yard at one farm was concreted and this effected a great improvement.

It was not found necessary to take any legal action during the year.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

Licences in respect of the four private slaughterhouses continue to be granted every 6 months under the same conditions as when the licences were first issued under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Few complaints were received regarding the condition of the meat supply of the district, which continues to be obtained from the Wolverhampton Municipal Abattoir.

A total of 63 inspections of butchers shops were made for the purposes of meat and food inspection and 12 inspections of slaughterhouses revealed no evidence of illicit slaughtering. Inspections of food preparing premises totalled 12.

During the year the following articles of food were surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for human food:—

72 lbs. Bacon.
4 lbs. Pork.
5 stone Fish.
2 lbs. Pork Pie.
2 lbs. Butter.
12 lbs. Tea.
4 lbs. Sugar.
36 lbs. Canned Meat—10 tins.
13 tins of various tinned foods.

No statutory action under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was necessary.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The number of slaughterman's licences in force at the 31st December, 1944, was four, the same as last year.

(c) Adulteration, Etc.

The County Council is the responsible Authority.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The County Council is the responsible Authority.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

I am indebted to Mr. T. H. Jenkins, Senior District Inspector, for the following report:—

Details of samples of milk and general foods taken during the year 1944.

Article of Food	Number of Samples	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk	19	18	1
General Foods	13	11	2

One sample of sterilised milk was reported to contain 7.5% of added water. This was taken up with the firm concerned and it was found that the adulteration was probably due to a defect in the sterilising plant, so in view of the firm's previous good record, a caution was administered.

An informal sample of ground gelatine was found to contain an excess of metal and arsenic, so a second sample was procured and this also contained an excess of metals, but the arsenic was within the permitted quantity. The matter was taken up with the retailer and the remaining stock was withdrawn from sale.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

The following table gives details of samples of milk taken in this district during the year and submitted to either bacteriological and/or biological examination:—

Designation	Total taken	Cleanliness		Phosphatase		T.B.
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Passed	Failed	
Pasteurised	2	2	—	2	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	1	1	—	—	—	—
Accredited	1	1	—	—	—	—
Non-designated	17	12	5	—	—	—

The figures above show that the improvement recorded last year has been more than maintained, only 29% of the undesignated samples being reported unsatisfactory from the cleanliness point of view as against 50% last year, whilst of the total samples taken 24% were unsatisfactory.

None of the 21 samples taken contained tubercle bacilli.

Continued efforts to see that cleanly methods of milking in the cowsheds and proper means of cleansing and sterilising in the dairy are maintained must account for some of the improvement recorded.

On only one occasion was it necessary for the County Authority to refer reports of unsatisfactory samples to the Medical Officer of Health.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 & 1938.

The following table gives details of licences in force on 31st December, 1944:—

Designation of Milk				Producers	Dealers	Supplementary Licences	TOTAL
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	—	—	3	3
Accredited	...	...	...	1	1	2	4
Pasteurised	...	...	...	—	—	4	4
TOTAL							11

One producer of Accredited Milk gave up production during the year, otherwise the number of licences issued remains the same as for 1943.

No contraventions of the Orders were found.

Details of inspections of registered premises will be found in a preceding paragraph.

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION WORK.

Details of the inspection work carried out during the year are given in the following table:

Summary of Routine Inspection Work of Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES INSPECTED.					No. of Inspections
COWSHEDS	...	...	...	...	52
DAIRIES, Etc.	...	...	...	...	61
BAKEHOUSES	...	...	...	...	19
BUTCHERS' SHOPS	...	...	...	...	63
FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES	...	...	...	...	12
SLAUGHTERHOUSES	...	...	...	...	10
FACTORIES	...	...	...	...	33
SHOPS	...	...	...	...	28
SCHOOLS	...	...	...	...	18
TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, Etc.	...	...	...	...	2
Re DRAINAGE	...	...	...	...	113
STABLES AND PIGGERIES	...	...	...	...	11
Re WATER SUPPLY	...	...	...	...	2
Re DUSTBINS AND REFUSE DISPOSAL	...	...	...	...	14
Re RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION	...	...	...	...	153
MISCELLANEOUS SANITARY VISITS	...	...	...	...	5
MISCELLANEOUS VISITS	...	...	...	...	41
MISCELLANEOUS FOOD VISITS	...	...	...	...	26
EVACUATION ENQUIRIES AND VISITS	...	...	...	...	562
Re INFECTIOUS DISEASES	...	...	...	...	50
DWELLING HOUSES :					
UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS	...	...	...	...	73
RE-INSPECTIONS	...	...	...	...	163
UNDER HOUSING ACTS	...	...	...	...	8
RE-INSPECTIONS	...	...	...	...	—
FOR OVERCROWDING UNDER HOUSING ACTS	...	...	...	...	—
RE-INSPECTIONS	...	...	...	...	—
VERMINOUS PREMISES	...	...	...	...	2
TOTAL					1,521

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

Form of Notice	No. Served	Premises	Defects
Informal			
(a) General Sanitary Defects	39	50	109
(b) Others	7	13	13
TOTAL	46	63	122
Statutory			
(a) Sanitary Defects	27	39	88
(b) Others	2	3	3
TOTAL	29	42	91

A total of 134 improvements to dwelling houses and other premises were effected during the year.

